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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6600
INFO RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1323
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

UNCLAS OSLO 000082

SIPDIS

SIPDIS, SENSITIVE

STATE PLEASE PASS TO USTR (BNORTON, JWEISS),
COMMERCE (EBRZYTWA) AND EEB/TPP/MTA (ASCHEIBE)

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ETRD](#) [WTO](#) [ECON](#) [NO](#)
SUBJECT: NORWEGIANS CONSIDER WTO TAFT PROPOSAL

REF: STATE 12905

(SBU) On February 14 we delivered joint reftel points, in coordination with EC Counselor Arne Karlsson, to MFA WTO/OECD Section Deputy Director General Dagfinn Soerli and Senior Advisor Camila Blom. Although the GON did not "disagree in spirit" with the proposed text, Soerli frankly noted that the WTO Taft proposal has not received much GON attention. The GON does not see a material interest in the issue, with Soerli stating that Norway must "concentrate its energies" on other WTO matters. Soerli did not, however, preclude the GON from co-sponsoring the proposed text, and will speak with colleagues in other GON ministries on this issue. Blom pointed out that there were some environmental concerns, particularly as to whether the proposed text conflicts with other GON environmental obligations (i.e. carbon footprinting, ethical labeling). Post will report on any GON follow-up on this issue.
JOHNSON